

Communication Matters

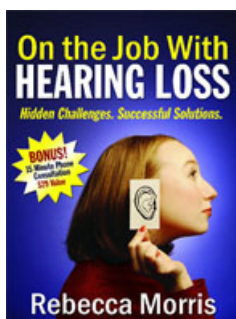
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New Book

On the Job with Hearing Loss

According to Becky Morris, author of *On the Job with Hearing Loss: Hidden Challenges, Successful Solutions*,

"If you think hearing aids are costly, you will be astounded to learn how much hearing loss can cost you at work, especially if left untreated..."



Often, managers are more than willing to help an employee but don't know where to find help. And the person with the hearing loss doesn't know where to find help either."

Ms. Morris' book maps out a plan for identifying and resolving workplace communication issues. The book is based on her experience working with thousands of people with hearing loss and their employers.

To learn more about this new resource see:

www.onthejobwithhearingloss.com/

Reimbursement

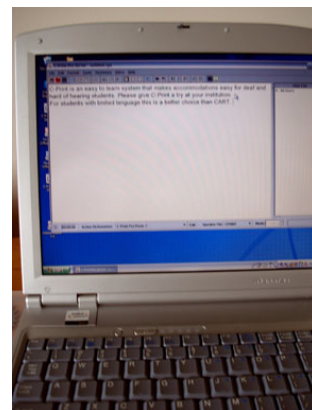
C-Print & Typewell Training

PEPNet-Midwest is extending a reimbursement opportunity (up to \$300 per person) for individuals in the Midwest region who successfully complete C-Print or TypeWell training between 10/1/06 and 9/30/07.

TypeWell and C-Print are speech-to-text accommodation services designed for people with hearing loss. A trained captionist enters spoken content (by typing or automatic speech recognition software) which can be read by a person with hearing loss. Both systems use abbreviations and special software for fast entry and an accurate transcript.

Requirements for the stipend include:

- Trainee must live in the PEPNet-Midwest Region that includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
- Training must be completed between 10/1/06 and 9/30/07. Successful completion is determined by C-Print and TypeWell training programs.
- Stipends are awarded after training is complete and paperwork is received. A total of 10 C-Print training stipends and 10 TypeWell training stipends are available for reimbursement.
- The maximum individual reimbursement is \$300.



For more information, contact Shannon Aylesworth at (414) 229-3340 or shannon@pepnet.org.

Click these links to learn more about the TypeWell and C-Print.

<http://www.ntid.rit.edu/cprint/>

<http://typewell.com/>

Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net. Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.

Nifty Device: Companion Mic for Group Conversations in Background Noise

Group conversations, whether over dinner or a board room table, can be extremely difficult for a person with hearing loss, especially when there is background noise. The Companion Mic is a device designed to make communication in these common situations easier. The small wireless system includes three “talker” units which send a signal to the “listener” unit that is worn by the person with hearing loss. Companion Mic can be used with or without



hearing aids. It is also suitable for cochlear implant users

Brenda Scharrer, rehabilitation counselor in Bad Axe, Michigan, identified the Companion Mic as a suitable accommodation for someone who works in an educational setting. Three students can wear microphones, allowing the person with hearing loss to more fully engage with several students at once. As is always best practice, the customer tested this device to assure improved communication.

Learn more about Companion Mic at www.etymotic.com/ephp/compmic.aspx

Digital Revolution Excludes People with Hearing Loss; Advocates Respond

According to a recent article in TV Week, people with hearing loss are increasingly left behind in the race to provide television access via High Definition television and Internet (June 17, 200).

“With the move toward hi-def, and the explosive growth in video on the Internet, it’s like we’re starting all over again,” said Mike Kaplan, who serves on the steering committee of the Hearing Loss Association of Los Angeles. “Since 1993, closed captions have been built into every TV set larger than 13 inches. So why in 2007, with the latest and greatest technology at our fingers, is it getting harder and harder to view captions?”

The article points out, “the lack of closed captioning on new media doesn’t only close out deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. According to a BBC study, 80 percent of households that use captions are watching the subtitles to learn the language or to follow a program in a noisy place.”

To read the full article see:

http://tvweek.com/news/2007/06/closed_captioning_excluded_dig.php

The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) is advocating legislative changes to ensure full access by people with disabilities. The following is the COAT response to the TV Week article:

“The situation described in the above article has indeed become dire for the millions of Americans who rely on captions to view video programming. To rectify this, a new coalition of disability organizations was launched this past spring to advocate for legislative and regulatory changes that will ensure full access by people with disabilities to evolving Internet protocol (IP) technologies. The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology, or “COAT,” is already over 65 organizations strong, and states as its purpose ensuring that people with disabilities will not be left behind as our nation migrates from legacy analog technologies to more versatile and innovative IP-based technologies. Included within COAT’s agenda are legislative changes that will (1) apply existing captioning obligations under Section 713 of the Communications Act to IPTV and other types of multi-channel and Web-based video programming services that are distributed over the Internet and (2) expanding the scope of devices that must transmit and display closed captions under the Television Decoder Circuitry Act from the present requirement of television sets with screens that are 13 inches or larger to video devices of all sizes, including recording and playback devices, that are designed to receive or display digital and Internet programming.”

To learn more about COAT see:

www.coataccess.org